

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3995

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MANILA 5472

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PINT, RP

SUBJECT: LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS: MARCOS COMMENTS FURTHER ON FOREIGN INTERVENTION

REF: MANILA 5094

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: PRESIDENT MARCOS MADE HIS FINAL PRE-ELECTION STATEMENT ON FOREIGN MEDDLING DURING AN APRIL 5 NATIONWIDE TELEVISION BROADCAST. REPLYING TO A QUESTION, MARCOS SPOKE FOR HALF AN HOUR, RECALLING HIS SHAME AS A YOUNG CONGRESSMAN AT CAVALIER US TREATMENT OF FILIPINO PRESIDENTS AND CITING A BOOK OF EXPOSES BY AN EX-CIA EMPLOYEE TO DENOUNCE LABAN CANDIDATES AQUINO AND FERRER FOR CIA INVOLVEMENT IN THE 1950'S. ON THE RECENT SITUATION, MARCOS RECALLED THE JANUARY 1978 VISIT OF ASST. SEC. DERIAN AND A NUMBER OF CONGRESSIONAL LETTERS AS EVIDENCE OF US INTERVENTION. HE ACCUSED JAPANESE FIRMS OF OFFERING ILLEGAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO BOTH KBL AND LABAN. HE SAID LABAN CANDIDATE HERRERA IS LENDING MONEY WHICH MUST COME FROM FOREIGN SOURCES. AND HE SAID THE MNLF HAS SHAMELESSLY SOUGHT FOREIGN SUPPORT FOR THE MUSLIM CAUSE. A GOVERNMENT NEWS AGENCY FEATURE STORY PUBLISHED APRIL 5 CONSIDERS EVERYTHING FROM SCHOLARSHIPS AND TRAVEL GRANTS TO

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ECONOMIC PROGRAMS TO BE FOREIGN MEDDLING. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING ALL-CHANNEL RADIO AND TELEVISION "NATIONAL PULONG-PULONG" PROGRAM IN FINAL HOURS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ELECTION CAMPAIGN APRIL 5, PRESIDENT MARCOS WAS ASKED ABOUT FOREIGN INTERVENTION. QUESTIONER WAS A UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES POLITICAL SCIENCE PROFESSOR. MARCOS PROVIDED

HALF-HOUR-LONG, RAMBLING REPLY WHICH TOUCHED ON HIS FEELINGS IN THE IMMEDIATE POST-WAR PERIOD THAT THE FILIPINOS WERE TREATED WITH CONDESCENSION BY AMERICANS AS WELL AS DETAILING THE CURRENT SITUATION.

3. FOLLOWING IS EXCERPT FROM RECORDING OF THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS ON SPECIFIC USG INTERVENTION IN PRESENT POLITICAL SETTING; QUOTE: ...YOU KNOW, OFFICIALS OF THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT HAVE ATTEMPTED TO INFLUENCE THE PHILIPPINE POSITIONS IN A WAY WHICH DOES NOT BEFIT DIGNITY AS WELL AS OUR FREEDOM. NOW ON THE QUESTION OF THE PRESENT PROBLEM, YOU KNOW THE STATE DEPARTMENT SENT HERE MISS PAT DERIAN, WHO IS I THINK THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT, AND SHE STARTED LECTURING TO US ON HOW THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE RUN, HOW THERE SHOULD BE OPPOSITION PARTIES AND HOKUWE SHOULD CONDUCT OUR TRIALS, AND STARTED TALKING TO US ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS. WELL, I TOLD HER IN A NICE WAY THAT, YOU KNOW, WE HAVE BEEN DEFENDING HUMAN RIGHTS SINCE AS FAR AS I CAN REMEMBER AND THAT THE WESTERN WORLD WAS THE ONE THAT BROUGHT TO US THE WORST TYPE OF TYRANNY AND DEGRADATION. WE LOST OUR DIGNITY AND WE LOST OUR HUMAN RIGHTS, AND WE FOUGHT THE SPANISH AND WE EVEN FOUGHT THE AMERICANS PRECISELY BECAUSE OF IT. BUT THEN YOU COULD SEE THE ATTEMPT TO INTERVENE IN WHAT I CONSIDER AS PURELY INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE GOVERNMENT. THEN CAME THE REQUESTS FOR ME TO RELEASE SENATOR AQUINO; THE REQUESTS THAT I ALLOW

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HIM TO GO TO THE UNITED STATES AND GO TO HARVARD. THIS WAS ALL RIGHT. I RECEIVED ALSO LETTERS FROM MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, FROM THE SENATORS AND THE REPRESENTATIVES IN THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS, AND I RECEIVED THEM AS FRIENDS. BUT WHEN THIS WAS TIED TO THE QUESTION OF NEGOTIATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE PHILIPPINES, AND EVEN THE QUESTION OF AID THAT WE WERE GOING TO RECEIVE, I FELT THAT THIS WAS PLAYING FOUL, THIS WAS SOMETHING WHICH I COULD NO LONGER STOMACH. YOU KNOW I AM WILLING THAT WE BE FRIENDS, BUT CERTAINLY FRIENDSHIP BUT NOT MENDICANCY; COOPERATION BUT CERTAINLY NOT DOMINATION. BY ALL MEANS WE PROTECT THE FREE WORLD; WE'RE ALL AGAINST THE SAME ENEMIES. BUT CERTAINLY WE ARE ENTITLED TO DEVELOP IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR OWN SOLUTIONS TO OUR PROBLEMS. BUT MORE THAN THIS, WE ARE ENTITLED TO RESPECT AND DIGNITY AS AN EQUAL. WE ARE MORE SAD THAN ANGRY, I MUST TELL YOU.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MANILA 5472

I'M VERY SAD BECAUSE THIS ATTITUDE OF FOREIGNERS MAKES
ME FEEL THAT UP TO NOW THEY DON'T BELIEVE WE ARE CAPABLE
OF RUNNING OUR OWN GOVERNMENT. THEY DON'T THINK WE ARE
CAPABLE OF MAINTAINING OUR VIABILITY AS AN INDEPENDENT
NATION. AT THE SAME TIME I NOTE THE FACT THAT THEY
QUESTION THE STATEMENTS MADE BY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS
IMMEDIATELY, AND I KNOW THAT WHEN IT COMES FROM THE
ADMINISTRATION HERE IN THE PHILIPPINES IT'S IMMEDIATELY
PUT UNDER QUESTION. AND I DON'T THINK THAT'S FRIENDLY.
UNQUOTE.

4. MARCOS ALSO CLAIMED THAT UNNAMED JAPANESE CORPORATIONS
HAD OFFERED DONATIONS TO BOTH HIS KBL AND THE OPPOSITION
LABAN PARTIES. MARCOS SAID HE KNEW THE KBL DID NOT ACCEPT
THE PROFFERED DONATIONS, BUT THE LABAN MAY HAVE BEEN TEMPTED
BECAUSE IT IS CHRONICALLY SHORT OF FUNDS. HE ALSO REHASHED
THE STORY OF TWO FEMALE JAPANESE NATIONALS ORDERED DEPORTED,
ONE OF WHOM REPORTEDLY MET LABAN CANDIDATE TRINIDAD HERRERA AND
SPOKE TO SOME OF HER FOLLOWERS (REFTEL).

5. MARCOS ALSO SAID THAT HERRERA HAS BEEN MAKING 500-PESO
LOANS TO SMALL BUSINESSES IN THE TONDO SLUM AREA. HE
ASSERTED THAT HER FUNDS MUST HAVE COME FROM FOREIGN
SOURCES. HE COMPLAINED THAT OTHER BABAN CANDIDATES KNEW
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ABOUT HERRERA'S ACTIVITIES BUT DID NOT STOP THEM.

6. CITING JOSEPH SMITH'S BOOK "PORTRAIT OF A COLD WARRIOR,"
MARCOS CLAIMED THAT: THE CIA WOULD HAVE HAD HIM
"ELIMINATED" IF IT HAD KNOWN HE WOULD DECLARE MARTIAL
LAW; LABAN LEADER AQUINO WAS WELL AWARE OF CIA ACTIVITIES

IN THE PHILIPPINES IN THE 1950'S AND 60'S, YET HE "STILL WORKED WITH THEM;" HE FELT BETRAYED WHEN HE LEARNED THAT LABAN CANDIDATE JAIME FERRER, WHO HAD IN THE PAST BEEN HIS EXECUTIVE SECRETARY AND COMELEC CHAIRMAN, HAD IN 1959 BEEN A MEMBER OF THE CIA-SUPPORTED "GRAND ALLIANCE" OF SENATORIAL CANDIDATES.

7. THE PRESIDENT ALSO DENOUNCED THE MORO NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT'S EFFORTS TO OBTAIN FOREIGN SUPPORT FOR THE MUSLIM REBEL CAUSE IN MINDANAO. HE ASSERTED, HOWEVER, THAT LIBYA HAD STOPPED PROVIDING ARMS AND FUNDS TO THE MNLF SINCE THE 1976 TRIPOLI AGREEMENT.

8. THAT MORNING, ALL PAPERS, AT THE SPECIFIC REQUEST OF GOP'S PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY, FEATURED A STORY BY E. AQUILAR CRUZ ON FOREIGN MEDDLING. EXCERPTS: "FOR THE FIRST TIME IN PHILIPPINE ELECTIONS, FOREIGN INTERVENTION HAS BEEN RAISED AS A MAJOR ISSUE. THIS IS BECAUSE NO LESS THAN PRESIDENT MARCOS HAS TAKEN THE LEAD IN EXPOSING AND CONDEMNING MEDDLING IN THE NATION'S AFFAIRS BY ALIEN INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS. ...IT IS SCARCELY NECESSARY TO SAY THAT "FOREIGN" IN THIS CASE MEANS THE CIA OR ANY AND ALL OF ITS NUMEROUS FRONTS. ALL ARE INCLUDED IN PRESIDENT MARCOS' DENUNCIATION OF FOREIGN MEDDLING, FROM FOUNDATIONS GIVING AWAY SCHOLARSHIPS AND TRAVEL GRANTS (WITH AN EYE TO FUTURE SUPPORT FOR IMPERIALIST POLICIES BY NEW GENERATIONS OF INTELLECTUALS), TO AMBITIOUS ECONOMIC PROGRAMS WHOSE
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APPARENT WORTH IS MORE THAN OFFSET BY THE POLITICAL STRINGS ATTACHED. ...IF ANYTHING, THE MEDDLERS ARE MORE ACTIVE THAN EVER. IF THEY SEEM LESS SO, WE MAY TAKE THAT AS PROOF TO THE CONTRARY, FOR IT IS THE SECRET AGENT'S BUSINESS TO KNOW HOW TO LOWER HIS PROFILE TO NEAR VANISHING POINT AFTER HIS ANONYMITY HAS BEEN SHATTERED. IT IS ONLY TO BE EXPECTED THAT PROOFS OF FOREIGN MEDDLING CANNOT BE DOCUMENTED. ... IT MAY BE IMPOSSIBLE TO STOP THE MEDDLERS, BUT LETTING THEM KNOW THAT WE ARE ON TO THEM CAN HELP GREATLY TO FRUSTRATE THEIR DESIGNS. SUCH HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE WAY OF THE WORLD EVER SINCE IMPERIALISM WAS INVENTED. IN OUR TIME THE MEDDLERS ARE MORE DANGEROUS, BECAUSE MORE SOPHISTICATED, THAN EVER."
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